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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
Thomas R. Stanley et al. ) Attorney Docket No. 54916-00334USPT  
Serial No. 09/976,135 ) Group Art Unit: 3643  
Filed: October 12, 2001 ) Examiner: David J. Parsley  
Title: APPARATUS FOR AUTOMATICALLY )  
STUFFING FOOD CASING )

**REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION**  
**DATED JANUARY 3, 2003**

**RECEIVED**  
APR 10 2003  
**GROUP 3600**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**  
37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. on the date indicated below:

4/3/03  
Date

Deborah Ricketts  
Signature

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 3, 2003. The shortened statutory period for response is three months from the mailing date, *i.e.*, by April 3, 2003, and this response is being filed within that time period. Please enter the following claim amendments and remarks into the record for this application.